

# Captain William H. Highsmith

## ATP, CFI, CFII, MEI

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## Curriculum Vitae

- Delta Air Lines Pilot, 2007-Present
- Aviation safety, pilot, pilot training, pilot examination, and airline operations management expert
- More than three decades aviation experience, including 25 years as 14 C.F.R. Part 121 Airline Pilot, Instructor, and Check Pilot
- Extensive experience in pilot training and examination, airline and general aviation, jet, turboprop, and piston
- Author of several major airline pilot training programs, operations and training manuals, and testing
- Extensive experience in Supplemental Operations, mission approval, aircraft ground operations, risk assessment, airport analysis, airline operations management, incident management, and incident and accident investigation
- Conducted over 1,000 Delta pilot training and checking events, with expert cross-examination by Airline Transport Pilots
- Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with Minor in Air Traffic Control
- Airline Transport Pilot and Certified Flight Instructor with Instrument and Multi-Engine ratings
- Expert pilot with 34 years of accident-free flying with zero violations
- Flown over 40 different aircraft types and variants
- Delta Air Lines Chairman's Club honoree, Delta's most exclusive and highest employee award

## Expertise

- Pilot Expert, Airline and General Aviation
- Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM)
- Pilot Training and Checking, Airline and General Aviation
- Multi-Engine Aircraft Safety, Operation, and Training
- Pilot Training Curriculums, Including Advanced Qualification Programs (AQP)
- Aviation Security and TSA Compliance
- Human Factors in Aviation
- Crew Resource Management (CRM)

- Threat and Error Management (TEM)
- Safety Management Systems (SMS)
- Safety Risk Assessments (SRA)
- Single-pilot Crew Resource Management (SRM)
- Flight Path Management
- Extended Envelope Training and Upset Recovery
  - 14 C.F.R. Part 121 Airline
  - General Aviation
- Supplemental and Charter Operations
  - Operations Approval and Analysis
  - Airport Analysis
  - Operations Specifications (OpSpec)
  - Aircraft Ground Operations
- Flight Operations Management
- Incident Management
- Accident Investigation
- Spatial Disorientation
- Airline Dispatch and Flight Planning

## **Professional Experience**

### 2020-Present **Habersham Aviation Consulting, LLC**

- President and Founder
- Aviation Consulting and Expert Witness Services
- Completed SEAK, Inc. expert witness training

### 2007-Present **Delta Air Lines, Inc**

#### **Line Pilot, Captain and First Officer – 2007-Present**

- Line flying operations
  - Captain - Boeing 717
  - Captain - Airbus A319, A320, A321
  - First Officer - Boeing 717
  - First Officer - McDonnell Douglas MD88, MD90

#### **Special Assignment Supervisor, Flight Control – 2024-Present**

- Operations Management
- Flight Planning and Flight Following
- Domestic and International Dispatch

### **Instructor and Proficiency Check Pilot – 2015-2020**

- Training and Checking of Delta B717 pilots
- IQ Curriculum Team Lead and Subject Matter Expert
- Author Boeing 717 Maneuvers Training Program
- Author Boeing 717 IQ Extended Envelop Training
- Author Boeing 717 Performance and Automation Program
- Author Boeing 717 Consolidation Requalification Program
- Co-Author Boeing 717 Line Oriented Training Program
- AQP Compliance
- B717 Line Pilot, flight time currency and qualifications maintained throughout

### **Supplemental Operations Manager – 2010-2015**

- Managed all non-scheduled Delta flights
  - Charters, Military and Civilian
  - Ferry Flights
  - Functional Check Flights (FCFs)
  - Maintenance and Position Flights
- Designed and implemented managerial, organizational, and technical resources and procedures to support ninefold increase in quantity and substantial increase in the complexity of Delta's global supplemental operations
- Mission Approval
  - Airport Analysis
  - Risk Assessment
  - Aircraft Ground Operations
    - Taxiing
    - Parking
    - Ground Equipment
    - Obstacles
  - Aircraft Performance and Engine Out and Obstacle Procedures
  - Produced pilot guidance for non-standard operations
  - Aviation Security and TSA Compliance
- Coordination and negotiation with local authorities
  - Noise Abatement
  - Aircraft operations approvals
- MD88/90 Line Pilot, flight time currency and qualifications maintained throughout

**Flight Operations Duty Manager – 2009-2010**

- Operations Management
  - Singular line pilot and flight ops manager within Delta’s Operations Control Center (OCC)
  - Tactical coordination with Flight Control, Maintenance, Meteorology, Corporate Security, and all other operational divisions
- Incident and Emergency Management
- MD88/90 Line Pilot, flight time currency and qualifications maintained throughout

2021-Present **Federal Aviation Administration**

- FAA Team Representative
  - Flight Standards District Office – Atlanta
  - Provide aviation education, counseling, and remedial training

2026-Present **Summerland Key Cove Airport**

- Director of Safety
  - Implement and maintain SMS (Safety Management System)
  - Risk Assessment and Mitigation
  - Regulatory Compliance

2001-2007 **Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc (ASA)**

- Captain - Canadair/Bombardier CRJ200
- First Officer - Canadair/Bombardier CRJ200, CRJ700
- First Officer - Embraer E120
- Crew Resource Management (CRM) Instructor

1999-2001 **American Eagle Airlines, Inc**

- First Officer - SAAB340

1997-1999 **Wrightway Aviation, Inc**

- Assistant Chief Flight Instructor
- Check Airman
- Delivery, Ferry, and Functional Check Flights

1998-2000 **Federal Aviation Administration**

- Aviation Safety Counselor
  - Flight Standards District Office – Orlando
  - Conducted remedial multi-engine training for pilots involved in multi-engine aircraft accidents

1996-1997 **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

- Flight Lab Instructor
- Spatial Disorientation Simulator Instructor

## **Certifications and Certificates**

- Federal Aviation Administration
  - Air Line Transport Pilot (2000)
    - Airplane Multiengine Land
    - A320 (A319, A320, A321)
    - DC9 (MD88, MD90, B717)
    - CL65 (CRJ200, CRJ700)
  - Commercial Privileges (1997)
    - Airplane Single Engine Land and Sea
  - Certified Flight Instructor (CFI/II/MEI) (1997)
    - Airplane Single and Multiengine Instrument Airplane
  - Certificate of Appointment
    - Aviation Safety Counselor, FAA FSDO15 (1998-2000)
- Delta Air Lines/FAA Delta Certificate Management Office (2015-2020)
  - Proficiency Check Pilot authorization
  - Pilot Instructor
- Department of Transportation (DOT), Transportation Safety Institute (TSI)
  - Basic Aircraft Accident Investigation (2022)

## **Education**

- 1995-1999     **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**
- B.S. - Aeronautical Science
  - Minor – Air Traffic Control
  - 14 C.F.R. Part 141 Multi-Engine Commercial Instrument, Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Airplane

## **Lectures and Professional Speaking**

- *Illegal Charters: Don't Kill the Messenger.* Southern Methodist University (“SMU”) 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Law Symposium. April 1, 2025
- *Keeping You Out of Illegal Charter Traps.* FAA Safety Team Webinar. February 26, 2025
- *Illegal Charters and Illegal Dry Leases.* FAA Safety Team Webinar. March 22, 2023
- *Illegal Charters.* FAA Safety Team National Webinar. June 8, 2022
- *Pilot Proficiency and WINGS Program.* FAA Safety Team Webinar. March 24, 2022
- Conducted over 1000 Delta pilot training and checking events, typically involving over two hours of interactive lecture with expert cross-examination by current Airline Transport Pilots, 2015-2020
- Presentations and Lectures given at Delta Corporate Headquarters and surrounding convention centers

- *New Boeing 717 Initial Qualification Program.* 2019
- *Continuing Qualification Boeing 717.* 2017-2019
- *Flight Operations Leadership.* 2014
- *Supplemental Operations: Preparation Tools for the Line Pilot.* 2013
- *Delta Charter Council.* 2010-2015
- *Charter Coordinator Summit.* 2010-2015

### **Honors and Awards**

- Delta Air Lines Chairman's Club Honoree, 2012, Delta's most exclusive and highest employee award
- Numerous other Delta employee awards, top 0.5% honoree in Delta's employee recognition system

### **Professional Organizations**

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), 1994-Present
- Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), 1999-Present
- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), 2020-Present